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3 **APPROVED**  
4 **TOWN OF PELHAM**  
5 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN–MEETING MINUTES**  
6 **MARCH 19, 2024**

7 **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Bergeron called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30pm

8  
9  
10 **PRESENT:** Kimberly Abare, Jaie Bergeron, Heather Corbett, Jason Croteau, Charlene  
11 Takesian, Town Administrator Joseph Roark

12  
13  
14 **ABSENT:** None

15  
16  
17 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18  
19  
20 **MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**

21  
22 March 5, 2024

23  
24 **MOTION:** (Croteau/Corbett) To approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes as is.

25  
26 **VOTE:** (4-0-1) The motion carried.

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28  
29 **OPEN FORUM**

30  
31 No one came forward during open forum.

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33  
34 **APPOINTMENTS**

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36 **Election of Officers**

37  
38 Mr. Bergeron announced that the newest member of the Board of Selectmen was Kimberly  
39 Abare.

40  
41 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Takesian) To appoint Jason Croteau the chairman for this year.

42  
43 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

44  
45  
46 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Croteau) To appoint Charlene Takesian the vice chairman for this year.

47  
48 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

49  
50 Chairman Croteau welcomed Kimberly Abare to the Board.

51  
52  
53 **BOS Committee Assignments**

54  
55 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Takesian if she wanted to be the BOS representative for the  
56 Agricultural Committee again this year. Ms. Takesian stated she would if no one else wanted to  
57 do it this year. The Board agreed Ms. Takesian would stay on.

58  
59 Mr. Bergeron stated he will stay on as the BOS representative for the Bridge Project. The Board  
60 agreed.

61  
62 Ms. Corbett offered to take Chairman Croteau's spot as the BOS representative for the Budget  
63 Committee. The Board agreed. Ms. Abare was assigned as the alternate.

64  
65 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the CIP Committee.  
66 Ms. Takesian stated she would stay on again this year. The Board agreed.

67  
68 Ms. Corbett offered to stay on as the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality liaison again this year.  
69 The Board agreed. Mr. Bergeron asked if they should assign an alternate. Ms. Corbett agreed.  
70 Mr. Bergeron offered to be the alternate. The Board agreed.

71  
72 Ms. Takesian offered to stay on as the BOS representative for the Council on Aging. The Board  
73 agreed.

74  
75 Mr. Bergeron offered to stay on as the BOS representative for Economic Development. The  
76 Board agreed.

77  
78 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Energy Solar  
79 Committee. Ms. Corbett offered to stay on again this year. The Board agreed.

80  
81 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Forestry  
82 Committee. Ms. Abare offered to be the representative. The Board agreed.

83  
84 Chairman Croteau offered to be the Hazmat Director. The Board agreed.

85  
86 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Master Plan Sub-  
87 committee. Mr. Bergeron offered to stay on again this year. The Board agreed.

88  
89 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the National Regional  
90 Planning Commission. Ms. Corbett stated her, and Mr. Bergeron can remain the representatives  
91 again this year. The Board agreed.

92

93 Chairman Croteau stated that the OHRV Advisory Committee has been dormant for a year, but  
94 with the Board’s approval he would like to extend it for one more year, and to stay on as the  
95 representative. The Board agreed.

96  
97 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Pelham  
98 Community Coalition. Ms. Takesian stated that this coalition has recently become reactivated,  
99 and they have a few projects in mind. Ms. Takesian offered to be the representative since she is  
100 already involved with them. Mr. Bergeron asked what this coalition does. Ms. Takesian  
101 explained that they help to bring awareness of drug misuse in Pelham. The Board agreed to let  
102 Ms. Takeisan be the BOS representative.

103  
104 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Planning Board.  
105 Ms. Takesian and Mr. Bergeron offered to stay on again this year. The Board agreed.

106  
107 Chairman Croteau offered to take over as the BOS representative for the School Board. Ms.  
108 Corbett and the rest of the Board agreed.

109  
110 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Salem Chamber of  
111 Commerce, now known as Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Abare offered  
112 to take this over. The Board agreed.

113  
114 Chairman Croteau asked who would like to be the BOS representative for the Water  
115 Commission. Ms. Abare offered to take this over, since she is involved with the Water  
116 Commission. The Board agreed.

117  
118 Mr. Bergeron stated he is on the Well Ordinance Sub-committee as well.

119  
120

121 **Discussion on request from Pennichuck Water Works to assume control of the private fire**  
122 **hydrant at the end of Beaver Brook Way; at a yearly town funded expense.**

123  
124 Chairman Croteau asked Town Administrator Roark if they were okay to move forward with this  
125 discussion, even though it was scheduled for 7:00 pm and it is only 6:40 pm. Town  
126 Administrator Roark stated that it was fine since it is not a scheduled public hearing.

127  
128 Town Administrator Roark stated that this is about a fire hydrant directly across from St.  
129 Patrick’s Church that goes down into Beaver Brook Way, which has senior housing in the back.  
130 Town Administrator Roark read the email from Pennichuck. The email from Pennichuck asked  
131 the Town of Pelham to authorize Pennichuck Water Works to “take over” the private hydrant  
132 located at the entrance to the Beaver Brook Senior Community at the end of Beaver Brook Way.  
133 The hydrant charges will be removed from the Beaver Brook Senior Community and transferred  
134 to the Town of Pelham under the public water hydrant charges. Presently, public hydrant charges  
135 are \$19.65 a month, and the inch foot charge for the 8-inch water main is approximately \$408.00  
136 per year. Town Administrator Roark explained that if Pennichuck takes over this hydrant it  
137 would become part of Pelham’s hydrants and they would have access to it for the other  
138 businesses and residential properties near there. He thinks it is a public safety matter, as if they

139 do not take over the hydrant the Beaver Brook Senior Community could decide to remove it or  
140 take it out of service, making it not usable to the Town in case of a fire in that area.

141  
142 Ms. Takesian asked how long this hydrant has been there. Town Administrator Roark stated that  
143 it has been there since Pennichuck connected Beaver Brook Way to public water, which was a  
144 long time ago. Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Abare if she knew when the building was built. Ms.  
145 Abare stated that she was unsure, but she is in favor of this because Pennichuck does a good job  
146 of going around and checking the hydrants frequently. Ms. Takesian asked how the hydrant got  
147 there. Chairman Croteau stated that the owner of Beaver Brook Senior Community had the water  
148 line and hydrant installed. Until recently, this was a private water line and hydrant. The building  
149 and house that are going up next door to this community needed water to supply the units, and  
150 Pennichuck realized they do not own this line and could not access it. The Fire Department  
151 would also not be able to access the line. Pennichuck has now made it a public water way.

152  
153 Mr. Bergeron asked if they knew if all the abutters were in favor of this. Chairman Croteau  
154 stated they were.

155  
156 **MOTION:** (Abare/Corbett) To assume control of the private fire hydrant at the end of Beaver  
157 Brook Way; at a yearly town funded expense.

158  
159 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

160  
161 Town Administrator Roark clarified that the Town already has existing fire hydrants that they  
162 pay for, this will not be the only one.

163  
164 Ms. Abare stated that Pennichuck has a map of all the hydrants in Town and when the last time  
165 they checked them was. She explained that with private hydrants, you do not know when the last  
166 time they were tested was or if they work.

167  
168 Chairman Croteau stated that they have a 7:15 pm appointment scheduled for interviewing  
169 candidates, but they are 30 minutes ahead of schedule. Mr. Bergeron stated that some of the  
170 candidates are already present. The Board decided to move ahead with the interviews.

171  
172  
173 **Interviews/Appointments: Agricultural Commission, Community Power Committee,**  
174 **Conservation Commission, Forestry Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Trustee**  
175 **of the Trust Funds (alternate) candidates**

176  
177 **Danielle Masse-Quinn – Agricultural Commission (3- year term)**

178  
179 Ms. Masse-Quinn (9 Meadow Lane) stated that she was re-applying for the 3-year term on the  
180 Agricultural Commission. She stated that she currently sits on this commission as the vice chair  
181 and would like to keep her seat. She stated that they are currently working on a community  
182 garden, a chestnut tree program, and a compost project. Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Masse-  
183 Quinn to go over the interview questions as well. Ms. Masse-Quinn stated that she would bring  
184 lots of experience to this position, as she has been on the commission for years, owns livestock

185 and a hobby farm, and is knowledgeable of agricultural laws, and takes classes on them. Ms.  
186 Masse-Quinn stated that she would like to keep creating agricultural opportunities and programs  
187 for the community.

188  
189 Ms. Abare thanked Ms. Masse-Quinn for volunteering and asked her about her plan to get the  
190 community garden project completed this year. Ms. Masse-Quinn stated that this is a work in  
191 progress, and the commission has looked at over 7 different locations and soil types, their goal is  
192 to pick a location soon. Ms. Abare asked Ms. Masse-Quinn about the compost project since it  
193 has been implemented. Ms. Masse-Quinn stated that it is going well, they have a small program  
194 going on with the Transfer Station, and they are hoping to involve the schools and bring the  
195 project to a bigger scale.

196  
197 **MOTION:** (Abare/Takesian) To appoint Ms. Masse-Quinn to a 3-year term on the  
198 Agricultural Commission, ending in 2027.

199  
200 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

201  
202 Ms. Masse-Quinn wanted to let the Board know that the Planning Board dissolved the Master  
203 Plan Sub-committee the previous night. Chairman Croteau thanked Ms. Masse-Quinn.

204  
205

#### 206 **James Fisher – Agricultural Commission (1-year term)**

207  
208 Mr. Fisher (47 Seavey Road) stated that he has been an alternate member of the Agricultural  
209 Commission for one year now and has enjoyed it very much. He thinks they are a great team and  
210 has learned a lot. He would like to get the chestnut trees back into the woods and help out with  
211 the community garden as well.

212  
213 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Fisher what experience he would bring to the position. Mr. Fisher  
214 stated that he has his farm at home with over 165 fruit trees, blueberry bushes, and other  
215 produce. He has grown up working on a farm and can bring a lot of knowledge and experience to  
216 the commission, especially for the community garden. Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Fisher why  
217 he was seeking this appointment. Mr. Fisher stated that he enjoys working on the commission  
218 with the team and being a part of the Town. Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Fisher if he had any  
219 specific goals for the commission. Mr. Fisher explained that he would like to get the American  
220 Chestnut Tree project going.

221  
222 Ms. Abare thanked Mr. Fisher for applying and asked him to share a significant challenge he had  
223 faced while owning a small farm. Mr. Fisher stated that he faces many challenges owning a small  
224 farm, such as insects, animals, the weather, and more. He stated it is a lot of work and every year  
225 is different, but he enjoys it.

226  
227 Mr. Bergeron asked Mr. Fisher if he was applying to be a full-time member or an alternate. Mr.  
228 Fisher clarified that he is currently an alternate but would like to be a full-time member for 1  
229 year.

230

231 Chairman Croteau stated that Mr. Fisher would be filling a 1-year term since someone has  
232 resigned. Chairman Croteau read the letter of resignation received by Laura Spottiswood into the  
233 record. He stated that Mr. Fisher's term would end in 2025.

234

235 **MOTION:** (Bergeron/Takesian) To appoint Mr. Fisher to a 1-year term on the Agricultural  
236 Commission, ending in 2025.

237

238 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

239

240

241 **Paul Gagnon – Conservation Commission (3-year term)**

242

243 Chairman Croteau stated that Mr. Gagnon (103 Dutton Road) is currently out of the country but  
244 is applying for a 3-year term on the Conservation Commission. Chairman Croteau stated that he  
245 is confident the Board knows Mr. Gagnon and is aware of everything he has done for the Town.  
246 Chairman Croteau stated he is comfortable appointing Mr. Gagnon to a 3-year term on the  
247 Conservation Commission.

248

249 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) To appoint Mr. Gagnon to a 3-year term on the Conservation  
250 Commission, ending in 2027.

251

252 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

253

254

255 **Al Steward – Conservation Commission (3-year term)**

256

257 Mr. Steward (6 Vista Drive) stated that he has been on the Conservation Commission and  
258 Forestry Committee for over 5 years now and has been searching for open spaces. He has been  
259 an alternate member and is currently the chair of the Conservation Commission. Before this, he  
260 worked in manufacturing for 30 years. He stated that he would like to continue the processes and  
261 successes they have had in the past couple of years in developing open spaces, documenting  
262 natural resources, completing the conservation plan for Pelham, and creating relationships in  
263 Town. Mr. Steward referenced RSA 36:A which states the definition of conservation. Mr.  
264 Steward stated that he asked the Commission to outline 5 items they considered significant in  
265 conservation for the coming year. His list was to review the master plan, create bylaws, continue  
266 searching for open space, continue to have a display at Old Home Day, and research and  
267 establish prime wetlands. Mr. Steward stated he would also like to ensure that they expand their  
268 ability to have citizens utilize public bodies of water and is hoping to go forward with his idea of  
269 creating a usable space for residents by Beaver Brook.

270

271 Ms. Abare thanked Mr. Steward for volunteering and his work in open space and asked him to  
272 speak about his passion for open space and finding land. Mr. Steward stated that the major focus  
273 on getting land is being able to acquire land that will benefit the community as a whole. He has  
274 worked with the Town Assessor to find land that may be available.

275

276 **MOTION:** (Abare/Bergeron) To appoint Mr. Steward to a 3-year term on the Conservation  
277 Commission, ending in 2027.

278  
279 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

280  
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282 **Karen McKay – Conservation Commission (3-year term)**

283

284 Chairman Croteau stated that Ms. McKay (31 Blueberry Circle) has been on the Board as long as  
285 Mr. Gagnon has but is unable to make it tonight. He stated that if the Board is okay with it he is  
286 comfortable appointing her.

287

288 **MOTION:** (Bergeron/Corbett) To appoint Ms. McKay to a 3-year term on the Conservation  
289 Commission, ending in 2027.

290

291 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

292

293

294 **Matthew Welch – Zoning Board of Adjustment (3-year term)**

295

296 Mr. Welch (33 Brookview Drive) stated he is seeking reappointment for a 3-year term on the  
297 ZBA. Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Welch what experience he would bring to the position. Mr.  
298 Welch stated he has been on the ZBA for just over a year and would like to continue. He  
299 attended a zoning conference in Concord in October and will be attending one in April as well.  
300 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Welch why he was seeking this appointment. Mr. Welch stated that  
301 he received a crash course in Pelham's zoning laws in 2022 and noticed that there was a  
302 recurring theme of the ZBA looking for members. He wanted to help out the community.  
303 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Welch what challenges he sees the ZBA face. Mr. Welch stated  
304 that the pond lots are always challenging, as many undersized lots require variances to do  
305 anything.

306

307 Ms. Abare thanked Mr. Welch for all of his hard work on the ZBA.

308

309 **MOTION:** (Abare/Corbett) To appoint Mr. Welch to a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of  
310 Adjustment, ending in 2027.

311

312 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

313

314

315 **Shaun Hamilton – Zoning Board of Adjustment (3-year term)**

316

317 Mr. Hamilton (36 Blueberry Circle) stated that he is seeking reappointment for a 3-year term on  
318 the ZBA. He stated he has been an alternate member for about a year now and enjoys it. He has  
319 been a Pelham resident since 2005 and has enjoyed raising his family here and seeing the Town  
320 grow. He worked as a call firefighter for Pelham for about 14 years before he recently stepped  
321 down. He now has more time to focus on the ZBA.

322

323 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Hamilton what the biggest challenge the ZBA sees. Mr. Hamilton  
324 stated that he agrees with what Mr. Welch said and that keeping everyone happy is a challenge.  
325 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Hamilton what other challenges there were besides the pond lots.  
326 Mr. Hamilton stated that the Town is seeing a lot of property being sold, developers coming in  
327 and people wanting to build housing communities.

328

329 **MOTION:** (Abare/Corbett) To appoint Mr. Hamilton to a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of  
330 Adjustment, ending in 2027.

331

332 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

333

334

335 Ms. Takesian noted that there was a third candidate for the ZBA, but they withdrew their  
336 application.

337

338

339 **Joanne Soucy – Trustees of the Trust Fund (1-year term, alternate)**

340

341 Ms. Soucy (8 Pineridge Road) stated that she is applying for a 1-year alternate position on the  
342 Trustees of the Trust Fund. She stated that she attended all of their meetings last year and the  
343 meeting they had in February and was able to get an overview of what their investment  
344 philosophy is. She has read through the handbook and RSAs, and their investment philosophy.  
345 Ms. Soucy explained that she recently retired and is looking to volunteer some of her time to the  
346 Town. She believes her skill set best fits this Board.

347

348 Ms. Abare thanked Ms. Soucy for volunteering and asked her to share more about her  
349 background and why this feels like the right fit for her. Ms. Soucy stated that most of her career  
350 has been in the administrative field, and she has focused on accounts payable, accounts  
351 receivable, payroll, documentation, production coordinating, and more. She is detail-oriented and  
352 well-organized. She stated that if she can be an alternate member this year it will help her learn  
353 more to see if she can become a full-time member in the future. Ms. Abare asked Ms. Soucy  
354 what her goals are for the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Ms. Soucy explained that she hopes to  
355 learn more about the thousands of trust funds they manage and learn more about the MS9 and  
356 MS10 forms they have to file every year.

357

358 Ms. Takesian stated that the trust funds all have documentation of what they are to be used for,  
359 and asked Ms. Soucy if she knew if they had all of that documentation and where it is. Ms.  
360 Soucy explained that she would have to ask Mr. Gleason, but she heard this documentation was  
361 in disarray, but they were starting to organize things very well.

362

363 **MOTION:** (Abare/Takesian) To appoint Ms. Soucy to a 1-year term, alternate position on the  
364 Trustees of the Trust Fund, ending in 2025.

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366 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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**Matt Rice – Pelham Community Power Committee (1-year term)**

Mr. Rice (50 Nashua Road) stated that he has been on the committee for the last year, follows energy prices, and uses solar and geothermal energy in his home. He stated he has an interest in the field. Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Rice why he was seeking this position. Mr. Rice stated that he is looking to fulfill his civic duty and help the Town. Chairman Croteau asked if Mr. Rice was able to attend all of the meetings so far, and Mr. Rice stated he had.

Ms. Abare thanked Mr. Rice for applying and stated that one complaint she hears over and over is about energy costs. She thanked Mr. Rice for helping to bring this opportunity to Pelham.

Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Rice why he opted for a 1-year term instead of the 3-year term. Mr. Rice stated that he started with a 1-year term, so he figured he would do a 1-year term again.

**MOTION:** (Corbett/Takesian) To appoint Mr. Rice to a 1-year term on the Pelham Community Power Committee, ending in 2025.

**VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

The Board decided that, given the number of applicants for the Forestry Committee, they will not be announcing decisions until the next Board of Selectmen meeting in 2 weeks.

**John Picard – Forestry Committee**

Mr. Picard (57 South Shore Drive) stated that he is a lifelong Pelham resident and has extensive knowledge of trail maintenance and clearing. He has been doing this most of his life, and in the past couple of years started working with the Forestry Committee and Conservation Commission. He would like to help manage these areas so all residents can enjoy them for legal use. He also would like to make sure emergency services have access to these areas. Mr. Picard stated that he believes the Forestry Commission lost its way over time when it started going after public property access rights, and he wants to help resolve these issues.

Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Picard what he thinks the Forestry Committee is supposed to do. Mr. Picard stated he believes they are supposed to manage the forests, trees, and wildlife. He stated this is not his expertise, but he also thinks they are supposed to manage how it is used for recreation.

Chairman Croteau noted that a warrant article recently passed that allows the Town to create a Trails Committee. He asked Mr. Picard how this could come into play with the Forestry Committee. Mr. Picard stated he would also like to be a member of the Trails Committee, and he thinks this will help organize groups to evaluate the trail systems, especially those that may not be used often and are overgrown.

414

**415 Michelle Cooke – Forestry Committee**

416

417 Ms. Cooke (14 Hinds Lane) stated that she is seeking this appointment because she is currently  
418 on the Agricultural Commission and feels they have been working well together and would like  
419 to bring this to the Forestry Committee as well. She was just voted in as secretary by the  
420 Agricultural Commission. She explained that she is continuously trying to learn more about the  
421 Town and will do the same for forestry. Ms. Cooke stated that as a steward of the forests, she  
422 believes they have to take care of it, and she is committed to doing this.

423

424 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Cooke what she thinks the Forestry Committee is supposed to do.  
425 Ms. Cooke stated that she believes they should be stewards of the forest and take care of it. She  
426 stated they need to maintain it. Ms. Cooke stated trucks and ATVs should not be on the trails.

427

428 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Cooke what she thought about the recent warrant article that  
429 passed. Ms. Cooke stated that it needs to be managed properly and it can work.

430

431 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Cooke why she thinks they have 9 applicants for the Forestry  
432 Committee when many other committees do not have nearly as many applicants. Ms. Cooke  
433 stated that she is applying to this committee because all the other applicants are also on the  
434 OHRV Committee, and her focus is on the trees and the animals. She noted that she has been  
435 teaching kids for over 29 years, and recently won an award for helping get students unplugged  
436 and outside.

437

438 Chairman Croteau thanked Ms. Cooke for all her efforts in Town.

439

440

**441 Mark Duquette – Forestry Committee**

442

443 Mr. Duquette (30 Old Bridge Street) stated that he is applying to the Forestry Committee because  
444 has close to 40 years of experience as an environmental engineer. He has experience in wetlands  
445 protection, wetlands mediation, managing and restoring agricultural resources, managing wildlife  
446 resources, invasive species management, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management,  
447 threatened and endangered species management, and more. He stated that all of these things  
448 overlay into what forestry does. Mr. Duquette noted that he has a bachelor's degree in  
449 environmental science and has multiple environmental science certifications. He also has an  
450 MBA in organizational and environmental sustainability. Mr. Duquette explained that he was on  
451 the Conservation Commission for a few years in the mid-2000s. He was also on Hudson's  
452 Conservation Commission. He is also a trail adopter in Town and is responsible for monitoring  
453 two trails. He has hiked all the trails in Town. He has read and is familiar with all of the forest  
454 management plans in Town. Mr. Duquette stated that he is 100% in alignment with the Forestry  
455 Committee's mission to plan, preserve, and protect forested Town-owned lands.

456

457 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Duquette what his thoughts were on the warrant article that  
458 recently passed for the Trails Committee. Mr. Duquette stated that he thinks it is a bit redundant

459 in the fact that there are already trial adopters and volunteers who do an amazing job, but the  
460 Town voted it in so they have to make it work.

461  
462 Ms. Corbett noted that there are only 2 open positions on the Forestry Committee, and stated  
463 that, with Mr. Duquette's background, he should consider applying for the open alternate  
464 position of the Conservation Commission as well. Mr. Duquette stated that he is not interested in  
465 that at this time.

466  
467

#### 468 **Bob Lamoureux – Forestry Committee**

469  
470 Mr. Lamoureux (28 Blueberry Circle) stated that he is seeking a 3-year term on the Forestry  
471 Committee. He brought up a comment Ms. Corbett made at a previous Forestry Committee  
472 meeting about putting personal or political differences aside to work together and move forward  
473 as a community. He thanked Ms. Corbett for this comment and noted that he also thinks this is  
474 very important. Mr. Lamoureux stated that he has been involved in land deals, trails, and more  
475 in Town for many years. He stated the master plan explains exactly what they need to do to  
476 conserve and maintain the land. He said he wants to bring forestry into the next generation of  
477 Pelham taxpayers since it is evolving and changing. Mr. Lamoureux stated that the way he  
478 understands it, the Trail Committee was put into effect since the Conservation Commission has  
479 the authority to create sub-committees and the Forestry Committee does not and they needed to  
480 put it to a vote. Mr. Lamoureux said his specific goal or objective is to see the Forestry  
481 Committee go back to timber harvesting and pay attention to anything that involves forestry. He  
482 said he does not feel the Forestry Committee should be able to make all the rules and regulations  
483 for the trails and forests. He sees the Trails Committee as more of a working committee, and the  
484 Forestry Committee can focus on timber harvesting and bringing in income to help the Trails  
485 Committee with the trails. He said the forest is a big evolving thing and we need to evolve with  
486 it.

487  
488 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Lamoureux what he thinks a Forestry Committee member's job is.  
489 Mr. Lamoureux stated that they are involved with every aspect of maintaining the forest, like  
490 the master plan, the purchasing of the properties, the timber harvest, and more.

491  
492 Ms. Abare thanked Mr. Lamoureux for applying and stated that the Town's taxpayers have paid  
493 for hundreds of acres of land and asked Mr. Lamoureux how many miles of trails are in Pelham  
494 that the Forestry Committee is responsible for. Mr. Lamoureux stated that there are over 100  
495 miles of trails in Pelham. He said that they are still trying to figure out the exact number of miles,  
496 but there are many different maps with different kinds of trails. Ms. Abare asked Mr.  
497 Lamoureux when the last time all of these trails were maintained and asked him to define  
498 maintain. Mr. Lamoureux stated that he thinks they are lacking in maintaining the trails. Ms.  
499 Abare stated she envisions the Forestry Committee being a working board to bring back the  
500 taxpayer's assets in Town. She asked Mr. Lamoureux what his plan was for maintaining the  
501 trails. Mr. Lamoureux stated that the plan is the Trails Committee that the taxpayers voted to  
502 put into place, and he believes once they get established, they will get a lot done and catch up  
503 quickly. Ms. Abare is hoping that this is not just an advisory board but a goal-oriented team that  
504 will work together to fix the trails.

505  
506 Ms. Corbett stated that Ms. Irish-Simpson keeps a detailed log of all the labor hours spent by the  
507 Town's trail adopters and all those who spend time working on the trails. She explained that  
508 many members of the Forestry Committee dedicate hours, days, and weeks of their time to  
509 maintaining the trails. Ms. Corbett asked Mr. Lamoureux what his involvement has been in  
510 working on the trails with the trail adopters. Mr. Lamoureux stated that he is out there  
511 frequently working on the trails. He stated he also organizes a lot of people who have bushhogs  
512 to volunteer their time to help with bushhogging in different areas in Town. Ms. Corbett asked if  
513 it was accurate to infer that the Forestry Committee is not a working board. Mr. Lamoureux  
514 stated it is not accurate, and they are a working board.

515  
516 Ms. Takesian asked Mr. Lamoureux about his going into Peabody Forest to clear it out for  
517 emergency vehicle access. She asked if this was similar to the issue they are having on Spaulding  
518 Hill and if opening these trails for emergency vehicle access allows space for any vehicle to go  
519 on the trails. Mr. Lamoureux stated that there are gates around the properties and the quad issue  
520 is the abutters using quads on the trails. He stated every time they put a gate up they break the  
521 stone wall down and get in, and this will continue to happen. Ms. Takesian asked Mr.  
522 Lamoureux how the Forestry Committee would work with the Community Trails Committee  
523 which has over 200 members. Mr. Lamoureux stated that they should work with the new Trails  
524 Committee since the taxpayers voted them in. He stated there has to be a chain of command, so  
525 people are not just trying to contact a bunch of different people.

526  
527 Chairman Croteau thanked Mr. Lamoureux.

528  
529

530 **Linda Irish-Simpson – Forestry Committee**

531  
532 Ms. Irish-Simpson (52 Sagewood Drive) stated that she is currently on the Forestry Committee  
533 and has been on the sub-committee for a few years as well. She is a trail adopter for 2 different  
534 areas and runs the trail adopter program and the Town's hike challenge. She also works on  
535 articles for the Evergreen every month about trails and forests in Town. She stated she would  
536 like to continue the work of forestry to make sure the trails are well maintained, safe, and  
537 promoted for all to enjoy. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated she would like to expand the trail adopter  
538 program, as they currently have 29. She would like to continue and expand the hiking challenge  
539 and is considering starting a winter hike challenge. She would also like to continue to promote  
540 the trails by writing articles for the Evergreen.

541  
542 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Irish-Simpson what she believes the intent of the Forestry  
543 Committee is. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated that their mission statement is to protect the woods,  
544 water, wildlife, and passive recreation.

545  
546 Chairman Croteau asked Ms. Irish-Simpson to explain her day-to-day job working as a volunteer  
547 on the Forestry Committee. She explained that she spends a lot of time out on the trails with trail  
548 adopters working to fix any issues on the trails. She stated that the hike challenge has now had  
549 50 people complete it, which keeps her busy as well.

550

551 Chairman Croteau stated that they had an issue in the Gumpas area a few weeks ago, and asked  
552 Ms. Irish-Simpson what they could have done better as a group to fix the alleged breach in the  
553 dams. She stated that they should have approached a biologist or someone at the University of  
554 New Hampshire about the issue first, but the beavers are back to building in this area now.

555  
556 Ms. Corbett asked Ms. Irish-Simpson if wetlands violations get reported in the same manner as  
557 other issues on trails, like fallen trees. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated that she only knows of one  
558 wetlands violation that was reported, and Mr. Gagnon is handling it. Ms. Corbett asked if there  
559 was a process in place for reporting this and collecting the data. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated there  
560 was a process in place and a place for this data.

561  
562 Ms. Abare thanked Ms. Irish-Simpson for applying and asked her if trail adopters do any trail  
563 maintenance or if they just report the issues and if they do not perform the maintenance who  
564 does. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated the trail adopters manage 22 miles of trails, and there are 3-4 trail  
565 adopters per conservation area. They have to go out 3-4 times per year to manage the trails, but  
566 some adopters are there a lot more frequently. When they walk the trails, they cut back the  
567 vegetation, move branches, and clear the trails. If tree or branch removal requires a chainsaw that  
568 is when the chair is contacted, as the adopters are not expected to use chainsaws.

569  
570 Ms. Abare stated that the voters put her in this seat, and the taxpayers are the ones who paid for  
571 all of this land, and she does not feel like the land is being maintained properly. Ms. Abare stated  
572 that 22 miles out of 100 is only 22%, which means 22% of the trails are being maintained lightly.  
573 She said the appointments of this Board need to be all-hands-on-deck to maintaining all 100  
574 miles of trails, and asked how they are going to restore the trails before they lose them. Chairman  
575 Croteau noted that Ms. Abare may have this perspective, but the entire Board of Selectmen may  
576 not feel this way and asked Ms. Abare to remain cautious before stating that the trails are not  
577 being maintained without proof. Ms. Abare stated that she is happy to supply photos of the trails  
578 and is trying to get an answer on how they go forward with taking care of taxpayers' assets. Ms.  
579 Irish-Simpson asked Ms. Abare where the 100 miles of trails she is talking about are, because  
580 some may be snowmobiling trails or on private property. Ms. Abare stated that the master plan  
581 reflects that they want to buy 1,000 more acres of land but they do not have a plan today to take  
582 care of what they have already. Ms. Abare wants to appoint someone serious about protecting the  
583 taxpayer's property. Ms. Irish-Simpson asked Ms. Abare to provide her with the specific trails  
584 and locations that she feels are not maintained so they can take care of it.

585  
586 Ms. Corbett noted that Mr. Lamoreaux stated that there were approximately 100 miles of trails,  
587 and the 22 miles of trails that Ms. Irish-Simpson speaks of are on the map and managed by the  
588 Forestry Committee. Ms. Irish-Simpson agreed.

589  
590

#### 591 **Dale Gallaher – Forestry Committee**

592  
593 Mr. Gallaher (265 Windham Road) stated that he has worked on the trails since 2012 and has  
594 marked most of the 22 miles with trail markers. He and his wife have done a lot of work to create  
595 trails, install benches, and maintain them. He has been on many committees in Town and was a  
596 scoutmaster for 7 years. Mr. Gallaher stated that there are many different issues and opinions on

597 the Forestry Committee, and he feels like he can work with everyone. He also has gone on-site  
598 walks with the Town Forester during the harvesting, so he has a good understanding of how it  
599 works. Mr. Gallaher stated he is seeking this appointment because forestry is a passion for him  
600 and enjoys maintaining the trails. He and his wife are trail adopters for 2 different areas. He  
601 stated he has cut down over 6 fallen trees on trails in the past year. His goal for the Forestry  
602 Committee is to continue working with other committees to maintain the trails and make them  
603 available for all permitted uses. Mr. Gallaher stated that the Forestry Committee has had a sub-  
604 committee for 3 years now, and he thinks it is good that the Town decided to make it official and  
605 now they can focus more on trail maintenance. He thinks the Forestry Committee should remain  
606 the governing body of the sub-committee.

607  
608 Ms. Corbett thanked Mr. Gallaher for all of his volunteer hours. Chairman Croteau thanked Mr.  
609 Gallaher.

610  
611

### 612 **James Fisher – Forestry Committee**

613  
614 Mr. Fisher (47 Seavey Road) stated that he manages his wood lot of approximately 65 acres in  
615 Pelham. He can identify all native trees just by looking at the bark, canopy, and leaves. He would  
616 like to see the Forestry Committee start to log, not only to make money but to increase the  
617 productivity of the forest. He thinks some areas are over-logged, which needs to be managed  
618 better. Mr. Fisher thinks they should time the logging based on the timber pricing. He has a  
619 passion for the forest and wants to work at re-establishing the chestnut trees. His goal for the  
620 Forestry Committee is to control the invasive species in Town. He would also like to see all the  
621 members of the committee get along and work together. Mr. Fisher stated he also has his  
622 equipment and is willing to help clear areas.

623  
624 Ms. Corbett stated that she liked his idea about timing the logging based on timber pricing. She  
625 asked if the forestry management plan is broken up by area, and an audience member confirmed  
626 this. Ms. Corbett asked if Mr. Fisher thinks it would be possible to target the logging based on  
627 speciation instead of general areas. Mr. Fisher stated that it is based on past logging, and they  
628 need to pick the trees that are best to harvest.

629  
630 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Fisher how he thinks they can all work together, including the  
631 Trails Committee. Mr. Fisher stated he thinks it is great everyone is working together, and this  
632 can help get more done.

633  
634 Ms. Takesian stated that they need to manage their forest and trails better, and the Forestry  
635 Committee needs a plan to manage all of the people who want to help maintain the trails. She  
636 stated there are over 200 members of the Community Trail Coalition, and they need to be  
637 managed properly. Ms. Takesian asked Mr. Fisher if he thought he could create a plan to help  
638 manage everyone. Mr. Fisher stated he would like to see the trails accessible to everyone, and  
639 right now they are not. He stated that if they all work together it will get figured out.

640  
641

### 642 **Nick Spanos – Forestry Committee**

643  
644 Mr. Spanos (9 Claudine Drive) stated that he has been attending the meetings for about 5 years,  
645 and he is happy so many people are getting involved now. Mr. Spanos said he has cleaned trails  
646 and other areas in Town and has helped repair a bridge in Town. He stated that they need to  
647 make sure the trails are maintained and safe for everyone. Mr. Spanos stated that he is hands-on  
648 and self-employed and can dedicate time to helping wherever he is needed. He has learned a lot  
649 about forestry in the past 5 years. Mr. Spanos stated he wants to keep giving back to the Town.  
650 He said the Forestry Committee could lean on him and he will help them in any way he can, and  
651 he is willing to learn.

652  
653 Chairman Croteau asked Mr. Spanos what he thinks is the ultimate goal of the Forestry  
654 Committee. Mr. Spanos stated that their job is to maintain and protect the forests, water, and  
655 wildlife for future generations.

656  
657 Ms. Abare asked Mr. Spanos how many hours he had spent in the Pelham forests removing trees  
658 and performing trail maintenance. He stated that he does not have an exact tally, but he  
659 volunteers whenever he can. Ms. Abare asked how often he picks up trees. Mr. Spanos stated he  
660 has been involved for 5 years now and feels like he does more every year. He said it changes  
661 every year.

662  
663 Chairman Croteau thanked Mr. Spanos

664  
665  
666 **Debbie Kruzel – Forestry Committee**

667  
668 Ms. Kruzel (76 Beacon Hill Road) stated that she has been an outdoor enthusiast for over 50  
669 years. She adopted 2 trails a year and a half ago, and hikes 10-15 miles every week. She stated  
670 she calls a lot of the issues she sees, and the issues are usually resolved within 2 days. Ms.  
671 Kruzel said she was on the Library Trustees Board, was in the Greater Salem Rotary Club, and  
672 more. She is seeking this appointment because she spends a lot of time in the forests and enjoys  
673 it. She believes the purpose of the Forestry Committee is to protect the forests for the citizens of  
674 Pelham and for the citizens to have access to the land. Ms. Kruzel said she can work with lots of  
675 people and can cooperate with them. She thinks it is important to get more children outside and  
676 on the trails.

677  
678 Chairman Croteau thanked Ms. Kruzel and stated that her idea to get kids outside and on the  
679 trails was the best idea he heard all night.

680  
681  
682 **DISCUSSION**

683  
684 Ms. Abare stated that she was updating her signature block in her email, and she noticed not  
685 everyone has the same signature block. She asked Town Administrator Roark if they could make  
686 all of their signature blocks uniform. She thought Mr. Demers had a good signature block.

687

688 Chairman Croteau stated that Ms. Abare and Town Administrator Roark can work on a  
689 suggested signature block and present it to the Board, and they can form a consensus.

690  
691 Ms. Takesian stated that she likes how the Parks and Recreation Department updates its logo for  
692 different seasons and holidays. She said that she does not think they should all have the same  
693 signature and is not ready for that.

694  
695 Ms. Abare stated that was fine and they did not need to all have the same signature, and she  
696 would pick one and update hers.

697

698

699 **SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

700

701 **Town Administrator Roark** reported that there will be a recount for Article 12.

702

703 **Ms. Corbett** thanked the Town Clerk's Office and volunteers for all of their hard work on the  
704 Town election day.

705

706 **Ms. Takesian** had nothing to report.

707

708 **Chairman Croteau** echoed Ms. Corbett.

709

710 **Mr. Bergeron** thanked them as well, and suggested they look into getting a second machine so  
711 there is less hold up in the future.

712

713 **Ms. Abare** also thanked everyone involved in the voting process for their time and hard work.

714

715

716 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

717

718 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a):  
719 personnel

720

721 **ROLLCALL VOTE:**

722

723 Selectman Bergeron– Yes

724 Selectman Corbett– Yes

725 Chairman Croteau– Yes

726 Selectman Takesian – Yes

727 Selectman Abare – Yes

728

729 (5-0-0) The motion carried.

730

731 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take  
732 any other action publicly, except to seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the  
733 meeting. The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 8:55 p.m.



734

735

736 **ADJOURNMENT**

737

738 Respectfully submitted,

739

740 Makayla Clougherty

741 Recording Secretary